

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 04450 080900Z  
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 L-03 JUSE-00 COME-00  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-07 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 CTME-00 H-02 INT-05 OES-07 /090 W  
-----110740 090441Z /13

R 080814Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3478  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
DOE GERMANTOWN  
DOE WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS CANBERRA 4450

USIAEA  
USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, AS, UK, ETRD  
SUBJ: BRITISH-AUSTRALIAN TALKS ON URANIUM

REF: A) CANBERRA 4449 B) 77 CANBERRA 07498

1. COINCIDENTAL WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN PARLIAMENT BY  
MINISTER FOR DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND RESOURCES (DTR) ANTHONY  
THAT THE URANIUM MARKETING AUTHORITY (UMA) WAS NOT TO BE  
CREATED NOW, BUT RATHER, THE DTR MINISTER WOULD HAVE CONTROL  
OVER URANIUM SALES (SEE REF A), WAS THE PRESENCE IN  
AUSTRALIA OF A DELEGATION FROM THE BRITISH ATOMIC ENERGY  
AGENCY (AEA) SEEKING AUSTRALIAN URANIUM. IN OCTOBER 1977  
A BRITISH DELEGATION HEADED BY DICKSON MABON, MINISTER FOR  
REENERGY, VISITED AUSTRALIA AND CAUSED A FUROR (SEE REF B).

2. THE BRITISH DELEGATION WAS LED BY SIR JOHN HILL,  
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CHAIRMAN OF THE AEA. REPORTEDLY THE BRITISH WERE SEEKING  
TO PURCHASE 1,300 SHORT TONS OF AUSTRALIAN URANIUM A YEAR  
FROM 1982 IN A DEAL WORTH MORE THAN DOLS A1,000 MILLION.

3. THE BRITISH DELEGATION, WHOSE ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA  
WAS NOT PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED, MET WITH ANTHONY AND THE RANGER  
PARTNERS (PEKO-WALLSEND, EZ INDUSTRIES, AND THE AUSTRALIAN

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION). RANGER, LIKELY THE FIRST MINE TO GO INTO PRODUCTION, CANNOT PROCEED TO THE CONTRACT SIGNING STAGE UNTIL IT RESOLVES ITS PROBLEMS WITH THE NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL OVER ABORIGINAL ROYALTIES FROM THE PROJECT AND UNTIL AUSTRALIA SIGNS A BILATERAL SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH BUYER COUNTRIES.

4. AUSTRALIA HAS HAD URANIUM TALKS WITH THE UK, US, JAPAN, PHILIPPINES, WEST GERMANY, FINLAND, AUSTRIA, IRAN, AND FRANCE. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT AUSTRALIA IS CLOSEST TO SIGNING SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS WITH THE UK, FOLLOWED BY FINLAND AND THE PHILIPPINES. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE IRANIANS ARE CURRENTLY IN AUSTRALIA FOR NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOA.  
SQUIRE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** URANIUM, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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